

By George V. Hobart.

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The Story

A DERELICT—ill-clad but beautiful—holds up the Hon. James Hamilton in his New York home and through her cleverness is able to obtain a paper of utmost importance to her happiness. Less than fifteen minutes later, in another part of the city, Jimmy is stunned at meeting a lady who is an exact counterpart of the thief, in the reception room of a friend's home.

He learns that the beautiful lady is Gloria Waring, famous Broadway star—but he is suspicious and upon investigating obtains evidence that she is actually the same girl as the derelict who held him up at the point of a gun.

Jimmy goes to Gloria in her dressing room at the theatre and confronts her with the evidence he has obtained. At first she denies guilt but finally is forced to confess and pleads with Jimmy to give her until after the performance, when she will tell him everything.

True to her word, after the performance, she confesses all to Jimmy. Involved in the mysterious plot being drawn about her is, as one of its outstanding factors, the enamored of her brother of a notorious "gold-digger" who is fascinating the youth because of a great fortune he is about to inherit.

Jimmy, listening to her story, and learning the one thing she desires above everything else, is to free her brother from the clutches of the vampire, advises her to see the girl. Gloria does so but is unsuccessful in her mission and returns broken-hearted. It is then that Jimmy, a deep love for Gloria having been born in his heart, says he will go to see the siren himself.

Going to see her Jimmy discovers that the girl is part of the past that he had thought dead and buried. Because of the hold she had on him Jimmy was as unsuccessful in his mission as Gloria had been.

Thus it was that the brother came to Gloria on the day of his wedding and after one last unsuccessful attempt to turn him from the path he had chosen, she gave up—and because she loved him accompanied the couple to the justice of peace in Connecticut where the ceremony was to take place.

Meanwhile Jimmy had realized that there was only one way out—and he decided to take it. So, as the ceremony was about to proceed he appeared upon the scene, and willing to sacrifice his good name and his honor, he made that confession that the girl who was about to marry had not the right—as she was his wife, under the common law.

Disillusioned by this terrible confession Gloria's brother scorned the woman who had nearly entrapped him—and Gloria, herself, lost the man she loved.

Later—after the reading of the will, which ironically left all the money to Gloria, she found Jimmy, ready to depart for Europe, realizing that all that life held dear had been lost to him.

But, Gloria had something to say about that!

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